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(DCI Quote for)

I'm delighted that the President in his State of the Union Address asked the Congress both to enact charters for the intelligence community and to relax some of the excessive restraints that have been imposed upon us in recent years. The Congress responded favorably to these remarks of the President. This is a testimony to the soundness of the President's policy over the last three years of endorsing regular and thorough Congressional oversight of the intelligence community. In the absence of such oversight, some constraints were placed on the intelligence community which are now not necessary.

These constraints are mainly limitations on our ability to keep our necessary secrets. It is clear that ^{if} these rules are not changed in the near future our ability to collect the intelligence needed for the conduct of foreign policy could be severely hampered. We have the finest intelligence service in the world today. With the passage of charters and the lifting of these restrictions, we will certainly keep it that way.

(EA/DCI passed this statement to Public Affairs)